

In 1982, the U.S. Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools with high or significantly improved achievement. I am proud that Conrady Junior High School, located in Hickory Hills, has been honored as an exceptional school.

The teachers and staff at Conrady Junior High take great care to focus on the needs of individual students, and this hard work is reflected in the school's academic performance. The school employs a unique curriculum with variable length math periods based on student need, and daily periods of exploratory and intervention classes.

This is not the first time Conrady Junior High has been honored for excellence in education. The school was designated as a National Title I Distinguished School in 2014, which recognizes success in educating students who come from families with low socioeconomic status. As Principal Andy Anderson often says, "Conrady is a hard place to work, but a great place to work."

The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program and the Academic Student Success Enrichment Teams (ASSETS) developed by teachers and administrators have also had a positive impact on student achievement. This success has resulted in visits by teachers and administrators from other schools seeking to learn about their curriculum, methodology, and technology integration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Conrady Junior High School for this impressive achievement and recognizing the teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community for the hard work that they have put in to earn this award.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—SHARON PHIPPENS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sharon Phippens of Orland, California, who has led an exciting, dynamic life, never straying from a desire to serve. The wife of a Foreign Service Officer, Ms. Phippens travelled the world and adapted to unknown situations, all in service to her country and her family. Ms. Phippens was a firsthand witness of some of our country's most interesting history through her work for two American embassies and her service in the United States Justice Department during President Nixon's resignation.

Ms. Phippens later pursued an extensive and varied education which she has put to use serving her community. Ms. Phippens has worked in law enforcement, patient advocacy, education, and social work; all fields which allowed her to work serving others. In every role, Ms. Phippens distinguished herself as someone who would go above and beyond. She has also served on the boards of organizations that provide support to people in times of need. Ms. Phippens has used her many talents to the benefit of her community, lending her skills to a wide variety of fields.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT  
DUSTIN WRIGHT

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Staff Sergeant Dustin Wright, who was killed in action on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 while defending our nation as part of the 3rd Special Forces Group in Africa. SSG Wright was a true American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family as they mourn the loss of this great man.

Enlisting in the United States Army in July of 2012, SSG Wright's list of accomplishments runs long. After attending Special Forces Assessment and Selection program, he earned his Green Beret and was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group. He received numerous medals, including the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

Men and women like SSG Wright represent the best our nation has to offer. As a Special Forces Engineer Sergeant, he had undergone some of the most intense training our military has and emerged as a leader and role model. His selflessness allows us to enjoy the blessings of liberty that have persevered for well over 200 years. When his country needed him most, he stood ready to answer the call to serve our great nation.

Our country can never repay the debt we owe to SSG Wright. He was a model citizen and soldier whose legacy will live on forever. He will always be remembered and I will do everything in my power to honor his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Staff Sergeant Dustin Wright for his service to God and country.

RECOGNIZING THE CREW OF U.S.S.  
"INDIANAPOLIS" FOR THEIR  
COVERT OPERATION TO BRING  
OVER COMPONENTS OF THE  
"LITTLE BOY" ATOMIC BOMB TO  
TINIAN

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the nearly 1200 crew members who were aboard the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* when it was attacked by a Japanese submarine in the early morning of July 30, 1945. Among those sailors was Seaman Second Class James Smith, a resident of the First Congressional District now living in Blountville, Tennessee.

The "*Indy*" was returning from a secret trip to Tinian, carrying critical parts and the enriched uranium for the atomic bomb Little Boy, when it was struck by two torpedoes that caused massive damage to the hull. She sank after only 12 minutes. While approximately 900 of the crew members made it into the water after the attack, only a fraction of them survived the conditions in which they found themselves. Seaman Smith was one of just over 300 survivors, and had to survive for nearly four days in shark-infested waters relying on few food rations before being rescued.

As an Army veteran myself, I extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to James and his shipmates for their service, and offer my condolences to the families of the sailors lost at sea. With the wreckage having recently been located on August 19th of this year, it is yet another reminder of their incredible sacrifice, and gives us an opportunity to recognize them for taking on a mission that was so important to ending World War II.

I was proud to join Congressman BISHOP last week in introducing legislation that would authorize the Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to the crew of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* in recognition of their perseverance, their bravery and their service to our nation. I am forever grateful to the men and women who serve our great nation, especially to those who make the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect our freedom.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
WINNER—SUSAN SCHWARTZ

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Susan Schwartz of Vacaville, California, who is passionate about helping young people grow, helping small businesses prosper, and helping in the community. Susan is known as the "volunteer extraordinaire" at the Vacaville Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club where she lives by the motto "children don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." Her genuine concern for the club youth is evident in everything she does which earned her recognition as the organization's 2013 Volunteer of the Year and the 2016 Champions for Children Award by the Solano Kids Insurance Program.

Ms. Schwartz has launched multiple projects at the club to include the Holiday Give Back for toys and donations for the needy, as well as the Garden Project that helps teach, grow, prepare, and consume meals from grown for themselves as well as the needy and homeless.

Susan has taken her advocacy for children, and expanded it into the community by working as the driving force in a group to bring the Miss Representation Project to Solano County. Partnering with the Kroc Center and Brenden Theater, she helped sponsor the showing of the films *The Miss Representation Project* and *The Mask You Live In*. Ms. Schwartz's commitment to service has brought these films that raise awareness of gender stereotypes, and help young people better understand the issues we all face to over three hundred children and their parents.

HONORING LIBERTY ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petaluma's Liberty Elementary School for its selection as a 2017 National